

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An embodiment of the invention is a network element including a monitor module for monitoring received network traffic on a uni-directional, first working link and detecting a failure in the first working link. A controller in communication with the monitor module is notified of a failure in the first working link. A mesh protection service (MPS) module is in communication with the controller. The MPS module transmits an MPS message signal using uni-directional communications. The MPS message signal identifies the first working link.